

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

September 15, 2009

The Board of Supervisors assumes an active leadership role in promoting adult immunizations by proclaiming September 21-26, 2009 as National Adult Immunization Awareness Week (NAIAW). The theme for NAIAW 2009 is **“Immunizations: You’re never too old to be vaccinated.”** The purpose of this theme is to draw attention to the importance of adult immunizations to protect individuals, families, and entire communities against contagious and potentially life-threatening diseases like influenza, pneumonia, and pertussis (“whooping cough”). Combined, influenza and pneumonia make up the 8<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the U.S., with 36,000 people dying annually from influenza, and 200,000 hospitalized from flu-related complications.

Vaccination has been cited as one of the top ten public health achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>1</sup> Smallpox no longer exists and the threat of polio is close to being eradicated. The incidence of acute Hepatitis A & B has been steadily declining due to the Hepatitis A and B Vaccine. The number of measles cases in the United States is at an all-time low. Pneumococcal vaccines have been shown 56% to 81% effective in

( M O R E )

---

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from the National Immunization Program (NIP) Strategic Plan  
MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

preventing invasive pneumococcal disease. NAIAW seeks to raise community awareness about the importance of adult immunizations and increased access to the vaccinations. This can only be achieved when both the patient and provider remember to check their immunization histories and not miss opportunities to vaccinate.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Proclaim the week of September 21 – 26, 2009 as National Adult Immunization Week;
2. Acknowledge the global NAIAW theme, “Immunizations: You’re never too old to be vaccinated,” by encouraging all County departments to actively support immunizations across the lifespan as the most effective way to prevent vaccine preventable diseases;
3. Encourage all County employees to promote the many benefits of immunizations, including the protection of infants and people with compromised immune function;
4. Urge all citizens to support adult immunizations as an essential way to promote the public’s health and protect infants as well as entire communities from vaccine preventable diseases.

# # #

RE:mw